

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A platen press device comprising:
first and second platens forming a press;
a drive mechanism that is coupled linked to at least one of the platens, the drive mechanism generating a cyclical impression force that presses the first and second platens together during a dwell;
a driven biasing member coupled to one of the platens, the driven biasing member further urging the first and second platens together; linked to at least one of the platens, wherein the driven biasing member increases an impression force between the first and second platens; and
a tensioner linked to the driven biasing member, the tensioner arranged to adjust the dwell.

2. (Original) The platen press of claim 1, further comprising an arm that links the drive mechanism to the at least one platen, wherein the driven biasing member movably engages the arm, and wherein the tensioner comprises a stud and nut, the stud being affixed to the driven biasing member and the nut threadedly engages the stud and abuts the arm.

3. (Previously Presented) The platen press of claim 2, wherein a portion of the driven biasing member is rigidly connected to the second platen, and wherein the portion of the driven biasing member moves with respect to the arm once the first and second platens establish contact.

4. (Currently Amended) The platen press of claim 3, wherein the driven biasing member is may be selectively fixed relative to the arm for a rigid operation and a relative separation of the platens is may be altered for a rigid operation by threaded rotation of the nut about the stud.

5. (Original) The platen press of claim 1, wherein the driven biasing member is a spring driven biasing member comprising a spring about a guide shaft and a dwell spacer, the spring providing a bias force, the press further comprising an arm linked to the driving mechanism and the at least one platen, and wherein the arm moves in opposition to the bias force when the platens establish contact.

6. (Previously Presented) The platen press of claim 5, wherein the spring driven biasing member further comprises a glider slidably engaging the arm and fixed to the dwell spacer and at least one of the platens, and wherein the tensioner comprises a stud affixed to the glider and a nut threadedly engaging the stud and abutting the arm.

7. (Previously Presented) The platen press device of claim 6, further comprising:
a backshaft having at least one offset bearing journal extending from one end, the bearing journal being connected to the glider and the backshaft being connected to the at least one platen; and
wherein a position of the at least one platen is variable by rotation of the backshaft about a centerline of the offset bearing journal.

8. (Original) The platen press of claim 2, wherein the driven biasing member is a fluid-driven biasing member comprising a hydraulic cylinder, and a glider movably linked to the arm, wherein the hydraulic cylinder exerts a bias force on the glider, and wherein the glider's position relative to the arm is selectively fixed and a relative separation of the platens is altered for a rigid operation by threaded rotation of the nut about the stud.

9-15 Cancelled

16. (New) The platen press of claim 1 wherein the tensioner adjusts the dwell by adjusting the amount of force exerted between the first and second platens by the biasing member.

17. (New) The platen press of claim 1 wherein the tensioner adjusts the dwell by adjusting the duration of the dwell.

18. (New) The platen press of claim 1 wherein the tensioner adjusts the position of one of the platens relative to the other platen when the platens are not pressed together.

19. (New) The platen press of claim 1 further comprising a drive arm that is coupled between the drive mechanism and the at least one platen, the driven biasing member comprising a glider that movably engages the drive arm, the glider also being coupled to the at least one platen to link the drive arm to the at least one platen, wherein the glider moves with respect to the drive arm once the first and second platens establish contact.

20. (New) The platen press of claim 19 wherein the tensioner adjusts the position of the at least one platen relative to the drive arm.

21. (New) The platen press of claim 19 wherein the tensioner adjusts the position of the glider relative to the drive arm.

22. (New) A platen press comprising:
a drive system comprising a drive arm;
a glider that is slidably coupled to the drive arm;
a biasing apparatus that is coupled to the glider and the drive arm, the biasing apparatus applying a biasing force to the glider;
a platen system comprising at least two platens that are configured to compress a target material between the platens when the platens are pressed together, at least one of the platens being coupled to the glider; and
an adjustment mechanism that is coupled to the glider and configured to adjust the position of the glider relative to the arm.

23. (New) The platen press of claim 22 wherein adjusting the position of the glider adjusts the duration of a dwell during which the platens are pressed together.

24. (New) The platen press of claim 22 wherein the biasing apparatus comprises at least one spring, the spring exerting a spring force on the glider, and during at least a portion of a dwell the spring force is transferred through the glider to the platen to generate an impression force on a target material between the platens.

25. (New) The platen press of claim 24 wherein the adjustment mechanism comprises a member having a first end and a second end, the first end being affixed to the glider and the second end passing through the drive arm, the second end comprising threads and a nut that is engaged on the threads, the nut being configured to limit the motion of the glider.

26. (New) The platen press of claim 25 wherein the position of the glider relative to the arm may be adjusted by turning the nut.

27. (New) The platen press of claim 26 wherein adjusting the position of the glider adjusts the force exerted by the spring on the glider.

28. (New) The platen press of claim 27 wherein adjusting the position of the glider adjusts the duration of time during which the platens are pressed together.